



The LCMS Kansas District

Rev. Justin A. Panzer, District President

1000 SW 10th Avenue | Topeka, KS 66604-1104 | (785) 357-4441

January 21, 2022

Representative Kristey Williams, Chair
House K-12 Education Budget Committee

Dear Representative Williams and Members of the Committee,

I write today in favor of HB 2513—on both a personal and professional level. On a personal level as a parent, I am deeply concerned about the data being collected on my children through behavioral testing without my consent. On a professional level, I currently serve as the President of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We represent 159 congregations, 207 pastors, 197 commissioned workers (i.e. teachers), 43 preschools, and 14 K-8 schools in the state. Here, too, I am deeply concerned about the use of SEL and data mining on children across Kansas.

I applaud that this specific bill paves the way for increased parental involvement and control by amending the 2014 Student Data Privacy Act. I encourage its passage. I also encourage the Kansas Legislators to give a serious look at why the use of behavioral questioning has become the major focus of Kansas public education since the adoption of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) as the primary focus of education in Kansas. Our children are the future now, and they deserve so much better than what is currently being offered to them.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Justin A. Panzer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

President Panzer
LCMS Kansas District